(c) whether the existing legislation 'The Cigarette and other tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' has been found ineffective to curb the sale of gutkha and pan masala in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government has received requests from Government of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to ban manufacture and sale of gutkha and pan masala in the country.

(b) The Central Committee for Food Standards which is a statutory body under the PFA Act, 1954, has recommended that Tobacco, Alcoholic beverages and Nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in the manufacture of proprietary foods (non-standardized foods). Gutkha is marketed as a proprietary food.

Accordingly, draft rules further to amend PFA Rules, 1955 have been published in the Gazette of India *vide* notification GSR 694(E) dated 28.11.2005 which *inter alia* propose that tobacco, alcoolic beverages and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in proprietary food products. Proprietary food means a food which has not been standardized under PFA Rules 1955. The draft rules have been published for inviting objections/suggestions.

(c) The Tobacco Control Act, 2003 does not provide for ban on manufacture, sale and export of gutkha and pan masala. However, it restricts the sale of tobacco products including gutkha and pan masala, within 100 meters of education institutions. The State Governments are the implementing agencies of the provisions contained in the Act.

Female foeticide in India

2514. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to check the meanace of female foeticide in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that British Asians are coming to India for sex determination and abortion of female foetuses; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to adopt British Laws and not allow parents to know the sex of the foetus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government is implementing the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Tehniques (PC & PNDT) Act 1994 in the country which prohibits determination of the sex of the foetus. As per the provisions of the PC & PNDT Act, all units/clinics providing Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques services are required to be registered under the Act and those violating the provisions are punishable with a fine up to Rs. one lakh and imprisonment up to five years. As on 28.02.2006, 28027 units/clinics have been registered and 383 court cases are filed for violation of various provisions of the Act. With a view to train and sensitize the lower judiciary about the PC & PNDT Act and the issue of female foeticide, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has underaken training of trainers from State Judicial Academies. National Inspection of Monitoring Committee (NIMC) having representatives of Department of Women & Child Development, National Commission for Women, Indian Council for Medical Research, undertakes periodical visists to the districts with low child sex ratio to oversee the implementation of the Act at ground level and monitors the prosecutions launched against unregistered bodies and bodies violating provisions of the PC & PNDT Act/Rules. The National Support and Monitoring Cell is being constituted as a mechanism to help Appropriate Authorities in apprehending actual wrong doer who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide.

It is, however, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. A number of activities to create awareness on the issue are being undertaken. The initiative include meeting with the organizations working against sex selection, involvement of the medical professionals, religious leaders to spread the message, requesting police training academies and schools to include the issues in curriculum of their training, telecasting of video sports on private satellite channels and Doordarshan, and involvement of elected representatives etc. A 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls has been launched. District Magistrates have also been requested to regularly review the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act along with other programmes in their district.

(b) and (c) There have been reports about British Asians coming to India for sex determination and abortion of female foetuses. The Government is already implementing the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act 1994 in the country which prohibits determination and communication of the sex of the foetus.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh for Family Welfare Programmes

2515. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released under the National Family Welfare Programme to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last one and half year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds released to the State has fallen short of actual expenditure incurred by the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the State Government has submitted a proposal for increase of funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Funds are provided by Central Government broadly under three Heads *viz.* infrastructure (in cash for salary, rent, contingency, etc.); in kind (supply of contraceptives, drugs, etc.); and grants for implementation of various Programmes *e.g.* Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programmes including Immunisation, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), etc. The total amount released and expenditure incurred reported by the State under National Family Welfare Programmes during 2004-05 and till date during 2005-06 are given in Statement (*see* below).

(d) and (e) The funds allocated under Infrastructure have already been released in full in four quarterly instalments.

During 2005-06, a financial outlay of Rs. 90.50 crores was approved for the State of Andhra Pradesh under NRHM/RCH-II. To date, an amount of Rs. 73.22 crores has been released to the State. The balance amount will be released to the State subject to the fulfilment of prescribed